

(d) if not, whether Government would bring out and implement such a plan in future; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Provision and augmentation of passenger amenities at the stations is a continuous process. Moreover, in order to bring visible, qualitative and effective improvements on each and every item of public utility provided at the stations/platforms, the whole gamut of passenger amenities at stations has been reviewed recently and detailed guidelines have been issued. As per these guidelines, the facilities at stations have been reclassified into three categories viz. Minimum Essential Amenities, Recommended Amenities and Desirable Amenities. For provision of these amenities, the stations have been classified into A, B, C, D, E and F categories based on the earnings of the stations. The scale of facilities to be provided as a part of the Minimum Essential Amenities has also been specified. Besides, 186 stations have also been selected on the Railways for provision of upgraded passenger amenities.

#### **Dacoities and Looting in Hirakhand Express**

3557. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of dacoities and looting of passengers belongings in Hirakhand Express;

(b) whether such incidents are mostly taking place between Bhubaneswar and Rourkela; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to curb such incidents and to ensure safety of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railway and Village police), is a state subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on the running trains is the Constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP).

However, only one case of robbery was reported during the year 2000-2001 (April to June, 2000) in Hirakhand Express.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

### **Foreign members of Asian Health Environment and Allied Databases**

3558. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign citizens/organisations are/were members of the society called Asian Health Environment and Allied Databases, registered on 12th August 1994 (No. s/26497), with Registrar of Societies, Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details regarding occupation and address of the above members, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) NISCOM has in 1999, withdrawn from the consortium AHEAD for CD-ROM Project due to administrative reasons. Now no further activity relating to the project is being carried on at NISCOM, accordingly, the information is not available.

(b) Does not arise.

### **Transgenic crops**

†3559. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in 'The Times of India' dated 21st July, 2000 under the caption, "concern over effects of transgenic crops";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that many scientific institutions of certain developed and developing countries have expressed concern over transgenic food crops; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.